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SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS

EVANS, MAURICE S. *Black and White in the Southern States.* Pp. xii, 229. Price, \$2.25. New York: Longmans, Green and Company.

This is a discussion of the American race problem by an English colonist of South Africa. The author published a similar volume in 1912 on race conditions in his home colony.

Following some preliminary passages describing the South and outlining its history, the heart of the book opens in Chapter VIII. The economic position of the Negro, the economic and social fear of the whites, their belief in the Negro's inferiority and their prejudice and determination to keep the Negro "in his place" are presented.

In two chapters following, the author discusses the thoughts, feelings and achievements of the Negro on the basis of racial mixture or purity, giving credit for greater practical efficiency to the mulatto on account of his white ancestry. He seems to ignore the better economic and other chances of the mulattoes before slavery and since. The discussion of the Negro church, lodge and education in Chapters XI, XII, and XIII hardly brings out anything beyond the ordinary. The significance of the Hampton-Tuskegee movement is well appraised.

The three chapters on Grievances, the Jim Crow Car, Political Rights and Wrongs, and Separation in Schools and Places of Public Resort seem to give the stamp of approval to existing conditions. From what the author saw, he believed railway accommodations equal, leaving out of account available facts and testimony of others to the contrary. On Negro disfranchisement, he points out that the Negro, although "voteless and voiceless in political affairs," is the one force that makes Southern politics what they are, "with death to discussion and to difference of political opinion." In Chapters XVIII to XXI, the lack of justice in the courts is strongly disapproved; personal injustice to individuals and lynching are terribly arraigned by a searching analysis.

In contrasting the North, where the Negro is pictured as a "voter without a livelihood," and the South, where he has "a livelihood without a vote" the writer fails properly to appraise the potential value of the vote in protecting workers.

The vital point of the book, however, is summed up in Chapters XXV and XXVII about the migration of the Negro population away from the land and the pointing out to the Negro and his friends the "great opportunity" now at hand for the acquisition of land while it is abundant and cheap. Also, he advises a clinching of the hold upon skilled and unskilled occupations while competition is mild.

The bibliography is somewhat too brief for a book which attempts to cover the whole question in the southern states. From the angle of the reviewer, the opinions on the economic situation are sound and valuable, especially coming as they do from South Africa where black men are severely restricted. The criticisms about the lack of justice and fair play are well taken.

The approval of other civil and political conditions are apparently drawn upon a background theory of statecraft belonging to South Africa rather than from the underlying ideals of democracy which America aims to realize.

GEORGE EDMUND HAYNES.

Fisk University.